Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-10 TRSE-00 /069 W

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R 241230Z JAN 78 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 099

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 1385

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, IT, PINT

SUBJECT: ALLIED VIEWS ON ITALIAN COMMUNIST ISSUE

1. ON JANUARY 23, THE AMBASSADOR LUNCHED WITH THE AMBASSADORS OF BRITAIN, FRANCE, CANADA, JAPAN, AND THE GERMAN DCM. MOST OF THE CONVERSATION AT LUNCH RELATED TO ITALIAN DOMESTIC POLITICS AND PARTICULARLY THE COMMUNIST ISSUE. THE AMBASSADOR OUTLINED OUR POLICY STATEMENT OF JANUARY 12. THE INFORMAL CONSENSUS OF THE OTHERS WAS THAT THE USG HAD DONE THE RIGHT THING AND THE JANUARY 12 STATEMENT HAD HAD A GOOD EFFECT IN STIFFENING THE DC AGAINST FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO THE COMMUNISTS. THERE ALSO SEEMED TO BE A GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT THESE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES SHARE OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE PCI. ALTHOUGH MOST DID NOT SHARE OUR SENSE OF URGENCY. THEY SEEM TO THINK THAT ITALY WILL SOMEHOW MUDDLE THROUGH AND THAT ANDREOTTI WILL SOMEHOW MANAGE TO PUT TOGETHER YET ONE MORE COMPROMISE SOLUTION SHORT OF BRINGING THE PCI INTO THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. THE ONE EXCEPTION TO THIS INFORMAL CONSENSUS WAS THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR WHO DOES SHARE BOTH OUR CONCERN AND OUR SENSE OF URGENCY. HE WAS PARTICULARLY FORCEFUL IN PRAISING THE JANUARY 12 STATEMENT COMMENTING THAT OUR CONTINUED SILENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN "INTERVENTION" TO THE WRONG EFFECT. AMBASSADOR PUAUX NEVERTHELESS MADE CLEAR THAT WHILE STATEMENTS LIKE THE CONFIDENTIAL.

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JANUARY 12 ONE WERE FINE FOR ITALY THEY WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR FRANCE.GARDNER

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